

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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R 281220Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3514

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY RABAT

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 1026

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LY

SUBJ: QADHAFI ALLEGEDLY TO REPLACE PM JALLUD

REF: TRIPOLI 1013 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: QADHAFI REPORTEDLY PLANS REMOVAL OF PM JALLUD. IN PM ABSENCE HIS SUPPORTERS BEING PURGED FROM ASU. ASU PURGE CONDUCTED BY ALI AL MAHDI WHO REPLACED JALLUD PEOPLE WITH HIS OWN. SOURCE INDICATES QADHAFI WILL APPOINT AL MAHDI LARG PM. COMMENT: QADHAFI DISAPPOINTED WITH JALLUD PERFORMANCE, ROLE IN BEIRUT, DAMASCUS. REPORTS OF ASU PURGES. EDITORIAL JULY 23, ESTABLISHING AL MAHDI QADHAFI CONFIDANT, SIGNALS PLANS TO REMOVE JALLUD. END SUMMARY.

1. QADHAFI ALLEGEDLY PLANS TO DISMISS PM JALLUD IN NEAR FUTURE ACCORDING TO INFORMED EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCE. QADHAFI REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN SETTING STAGE FOR MOVE DURING JALLUD TWO-MONTH ABSENCE AS LARG MEDIATOR

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IN LEBANON CRISIS. WHILE PM JALLUD HAS BEEN SHUTTLING

BETWEEN BEIRUT, BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS, QADHAFI IS SAID TO HAVE ORDERED PURGE OF JALLUD SUPPORTERS FROM LAR ASU. PRIMARY REPONSIBILITY FOR PURGE RESTS WITH ONE ALI AL-MAHDI (ABOUT WHOM WE HAVE NO INFORMATION AT PRESENT). AL MAHDI REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN QUITE EFFECTIVE IN THIS REGARD AND HAS REPLACED SEVERAL KEY JALLUD PEOPLE IN ASU WITH HIS OWN SUPPORTERS.

COMMENT: WHILE SPECULATION HAS EXISTED FOR SOME TIME CONCERNING QADHAFI'S PLANS TO REMOVE JALLUD AS LARG PM, WE THINK IT POSSIBLE THAT JALLUD'S DISMISSAL MAY BE IMMINENT. OTHER SOURCES HAVE INDICATED QADHAFI'S DISAPPOINTMENT WITH JALLUD'S MEDIATION ROLE IN LEBANON. REPORTS INDICATE QADHAFI BELIEVES JALLUD BEING LEAD BY NOSE BY ASSAD AND THAT QADHAFI CONSIDERS JALLUD QUITE NAIVE IN INSISTING ON CONTINUING MEDIATING ROLE. OTHER CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE ALLEGATION HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF RECENT PURGES IN ASU WHERE NOTICES WERE PLACED ON LOCKED ASU OFFICES INFORMING THE OCCUPANTS THEY WERE NO LONGER IN OFFICE. MOST RECENT CHANGE IN ASU LEADERSHIP THAT SUPPORTS SOURCE'S CLAIM IS REMOVAL OF PM JALLUD'S COUSIN ABU BAKR JALLUD (REFTEL). COUSIN WAS APPOINTED HEAD OF LAR LABOR FEDERATION AND REMOVED FROM IMPORTANT ASU POSITION AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC ORTANIZATIONS' COMMITTEE. THIS COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY HEARS COMPLAINTS OF ASU POPULAR COMMITTEES WHICH FORM BACKBONE OF ORGANIZATION.

2. PERHAPS STRONGEST COOROBORATIVE EVIDENCE THAT QADHAFI PLANS TO REPLACE JALLUD APPEARS IN FORM OF LONG EDITORIAL COMMENTARY IN JULY 24 LARG OFFICIAL DAILY, AL-FAJR AL JIHAD. WE BELIEVE COMMENTARY, WRITTEN BY ALI AL MAHDI IN THE NAME OF COL QADHAFI, SIGNALS QADHAFI'S INTENTION TO REPLACE JALLUD. TITLED "REVOLUTION CONTINUES," QADHAFI REPORTEDLY INDICATES REVOLUTION IN STAGE OF TRANSFORMATION WHICH REQUIRES CONFIDENCE IN REVLUTION ESPECIALLY FROM RCC MEMBERS. QADHAFI INDICATES RCC EMBARRASSED BY LACK OF CONFIDENCE FROM UNNAMED INDIVIDUAL (JALLUD, WE BELIEVE) WHOM QADHAFI CRITICIZES AS USING GOVERNMENT POSITION
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AS OPPORTUNIST FOR PERSONAL GAIN INCLUDING APPOINTMENT OF RELATIVES AND FRIENDS TO GOVERNMENT POSITIONS AT THE EXPENSE OF REVOLUTION. QADHAFI CLAIMS INDIVIDUAL PROJECTING HIMSELF UNDER PRETEXT OF REVOLUTION WHILE EXPLOITING AUTHORITY TO CONSTRUCT POSITION OF POWER TO SEIZE POWER THROUGH ILLEGITIMATE MEANS AS DID MUHAYSHI. WE BELIEVE QADHAFI'S REFERENCE TO RELATIVES AND HIS COMPARISON OF NAMELESS INDIVIDUAL

TO FORMER PM MUHAYSHI LEAVES NO DOUBT FOR READER TO WHOM QADHAFI REFERS. QADHAFI COMMENT ON INDIVIDUAL'S EXPLOITATION OF GOVERNMENT POSITION PROBABLY REFLECTS HIS CHAGRIN AT WHAT HE PERCEIVES AS JALLUD ATTEMPT TO GAIN INTERNATIONAL AND ARAB RECOGNITION AS STATESMAN IN MEDIATION ROLE, SINCE QADHAFI, AS INDICATED BY HIS CRITICISM OF SYRIA, HAS GIVEN UP ANY HOPE OF JALLUD ACHIEVING ANYTHING BUT GREATER EMINENCE.

3. WHILE QADHAFI'S INTENTIONS TO DISMISS JALLUD SEEM CLEAR, IT IS PROBLEMATIC WHETHER HE WILL REPLACE HIM WITH ALI AL MAHDI WHO MAY SIMPLY BE A STALKING-HORSE USED BY QADHAFI IN A PLOY TO FURTHER FLUSH OUT HIS OPPOSITION. IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH ITALIAN DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE, QADHAFI REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED AMUSEMENT AT JALLUD "DODGING BULLETS" IN BEIRUT, HIS AMUSEMENT SEEMS READILY UNDERSTANDABLE AS HE NOW APPEARS TO BE ARRAGING POLITICAL DEMISE OF HIS PM.
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